

Message Text

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FOR IOP/M, ILA

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON U.S. CARIBBEAN RELATIONS

1. FEBRUARY-MARCH ISSUE PEOPLE MAGAZINE, PROMINENT
CARIBBEAN PERIODICAL, PUBLISHED FEATURE ARTICLE BY ADAM SMITH
TITLED "THE NEW WASHINGTON: HOW SHOULD WEST INDIANS SEE IT?"

2. RUNNING APPROXIMATELY 33 INCHES WITH PIX SECRETARY
VANCE VISITING EMBASSY AND U.N. AMBASSADOR YOUNG WITH
AMBASSADOR FOX, ARTICLE COMMENTS FAVORABLY ON NEW
ADMINISTRATON'S APPROACH TO REGION. NOTING "APPOINTMENT
OF A BLACK MAN RICHARD FOX, AS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO HAS IN A SENSE EMPHASIZED CHANGE." ARTICLE
ALSO OBSERVES "THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAS INTRODUCED AN
ELEMENT OF WARMTH."

3. ARTICLE SAYS "THOUGH IN THE PREVIOUS CROWD THE VERY
ISSUE WAS NEVER MENTIONED, BEING SENSITIVE AND IMPROPER,
THE FRIGIDITY AND CONDESCENSION OF U.S. OFFICIALDOM
WAS UNMISTAKEABLE RACISM, A FEELING OF THESE PEOPLE NOT
REALLY BEING HUMAN." ARTICLE ADDS THAT "THAT OUTRAGEOUS
TALKING-DOWN APPROACH IS REFRESHINGLY MISSING."

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4. "FOR THE CARIBBEAN," THE ARTICLE CONTINUES, "THE
NEW ADMINISTRATON MEANS A GREATER PREOCCUPATION WITH THE
VIOLATION OF "HUMAN RIGHTS" BUT SAYS THAT "PUERTO RICO WILL
BE A TEST OF THE NEW HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY." ARTICLE THEN
ASSERTS THAT THE "REAL CONFLICT" IN PUERTO RICO IS THE
"RACIAL FACTOR OF CONTEMPT AND IMPERIOSNESS AMONG THE
WEALTHY WHITE MINORITY AND THE BURNING RESENTMENT OF THE

COMMON PEOPLE."

5. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, THE WRITER SAYS, HAS A HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD THAT WASHINGTON REGARDS AS "THE BEST IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD."

6. ARTICLE CONCLUDES: "THE PEANUT REVOLUTION IN WASHINGTON D.C. APPEARS TO BE A BRAVE, DETERMINED ONE. AFTER A DECADE OF TURMOIL AND SELF-EXAMINATION, THE U.S. IS STARTING TO FIND A NEW LEVEL, AND FOR ALL THE JIBES AND LAMPOONING, MAY WELL BE FAVORABLY JUDGED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF HISTORICAL HINDSIGHT."
ASKEY

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